

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Please cancel Claims 11, 13, 15, and 19-21 without prejudice. Please amend Claims 7, 12, and 14 as indicated.

Listing of Claims

1-6. Cancelled.

7. (Currently Amended) A method of treatment for protection of a tobacco, wheat, or parsley plant against a virus of the tobacco mosaic or a phytopathogenic agent comprising:

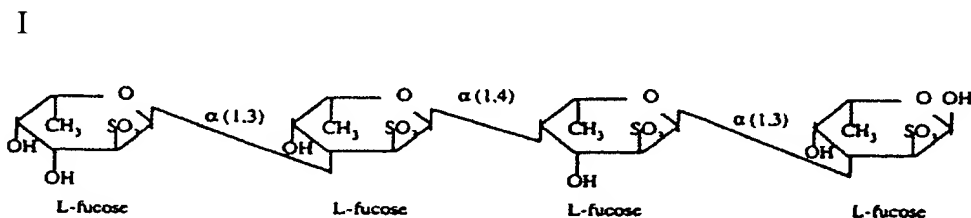
selecting a sulphated fuco-oligosaccharide having a polymerization degree from 4 to 100 α -L fucose units;

forming an aqueous solution having a concentration of the sulphated fuco-oligosaccharide of at least 10 mg/l; and

applying the solution to the plant to be treated to stimulate a direct elicitor effect of defense reactions in the treated plant.

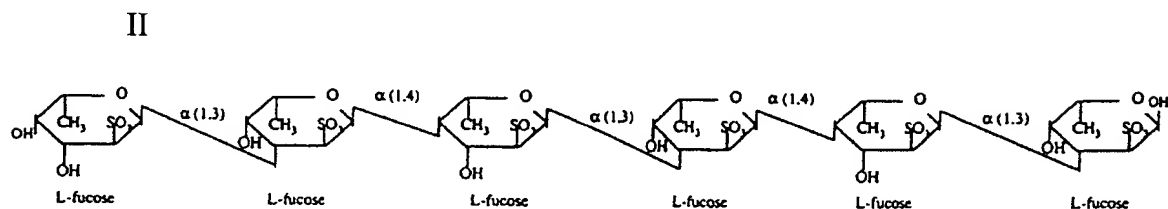
8-11. Cancelled.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of treatment according to Claim 7, wherein the sulphated fuco-oligosaccharide has the following structure I:



13. Cancelled.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of treatment according to claim 22, wherein the sulphated fuco-oligosaccharide has the following structure II:



15. Cancelled.

16. (Previously Submitted) The method of treatment according to Claim 7, wherein the sulphated fuco-oligosaccharide is obtained by a process comprising an enzymatic hydrolysis step wherein at least one endofucanase obtained from a bacterium strain deposited under the number 12171 in the collection DSMZ is used.

17. (Previously Submitted) The method of treatment according to Claim 7, wherein the sulphated fuco-oligosaccharide is obtained by a process comprising an enzymatic hydrolysis step wherein at least one endofucanase containing sequences analogous to a peptide of ID No. 2, ID No. 3, ID No. 4, or ID No. 6 is used.

18. (Previously Submitted) The method of treatment according to Claim 7, wherein the plant subjected to treatment is tobacco.

19-21. Cancelled.